

# Session Works!

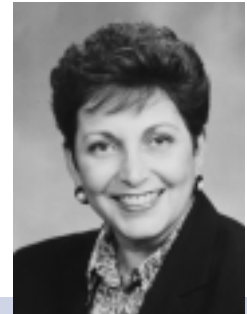
## 2001 Session End Report From Reps. Fred Jarrett and Ida Ballasiotes 41st District

### LET US HEAR FROM YOU!

Being your legislator doesn't stop when the legislative session is finished. We are continuing to work through the year on your behalf on various legislative matters. Your priorities are our priorities. If you have any suggestions, comments or questions, please call or e-mail us. You may also use the toll-free legislative hotline at 1-800-562-6000.



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August 2001

Dear Neighbors,

It is rare that we would be sending a session-end report so late in the year. However, with a 105-day regular session ending in April and three subsequent special sessions, it's been an unusual year for the 2001 Legislature.

We entered this year with some particular budget challenges. Initiative 695, approved by voters just over a year and a half ago, eliminated the motor vehicle excise tax, and with it, money that was being used for transportation and city/county funding. Surplus revenue in the state's general fund that was being used to make up for those losses was depleted through education initiatives approved by voters this past November, leaving the state with no additional money for transportation or other needs.

We also found ourselves back in a 49-49 tie in the House with no clear majority. Add to that the confusion of the February earthquake which closed the Capitol for two months.

Nevertheless, we were still able to provide some significant accomplishments, even though things didn't always turn out the way we had hoped. This report provides a brief insight to the highlights of the 2001 legislative year.

If you have any comments or questions, please contact our offices. It is a pleasure to serve you.

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## • Rep. Ida Ballasiotes Epinephrine law made permanent

Two years ago after a young Mercer Island girl died from a peanut allergy, I sponsored legislation creating a temporary pilot program that would allow emergency medical technicians (EMTs) to carry and administer the anti-allergy medication, epinephrine. EMTs were on the scene when the girl went into respiratory distress, but state law prevented them from giving her the drug. Since my legislation went into effect, in at least 25 cases where EMTs administered epinephrine to people having allergy-related respiratory distress, their conditions improved significantly.

This year, I sponsored a bill to make the EMT epinephrine program permanent. The Legislature recognized how this program is saving lives and passed the bill overwhelmingly.

## • Rep. Fred Jarrett Transportation efficiencies adopted

We fought hard to adopt cost-saving transportation efficiency measures before asking taxpayers to invest more in reducing congestion. Efficiencies such as competitive bidding, reform of prevailing wage laws and streamlining the environmental permitting process (without lowering standards) — to make transportation projects faster and less expensive — have been our priority. I am pleased to report that we were successful in adopting two of these transportation efficiencies.

**Permit streamlining** legislation was signed into law that will cut the time and expense of the permitting process, and go a long way to maximize the value of every taxpayer dollar spent on transportation. In addition, **design-build** legislation was adopted, allowing the state to contract for engineering services. This will facilitate a closer connection between designer and builder, ultimately im-

## Crime protection bills become law

Among the Legislature's duties are providing for the safety and protection of the public. As co-chair of the House Criminal Justice and Corrections Committee, I introduced several bills to keep young people safe from guns, assist crime victims, lock up persistent offenders, and keep track of sex offenders. Four of my prime-sponsored bills became law. They included:

- **House Bill 1040** - Extends victims' compensation benefits in certain cases to people injured by a hit-and-run driver.
- **House Bill 1041** - Allows protection orders to be issued against those under the age of 18.
- **House Bill 1227** - Tightens our state's laws regarding escape from custody.

proving the construction process and the end product.

Shifting our focus to investing in an efficient transportation system creates an outstanding opportunity for the state to prove to taxpayers that we can change the way government does business.

I was greatly distressed by the Legislature's failure to complete our work on transportation. We passed neither the final set of reforms nor a financing plan for either the state or our region. I will continue to work with other House members, and our senators, to find a bipartisan solution to reducing congestion. We have no choice.



*Rep. Jarrett shares his experiences as a freshman legislator with students visiting the Capitol.*

- **House Bill 1952** - Requires all transient (homeless) sex offenders to report their whereabouts weekly to their local sheriff's office and sets up a statewide central booking and reporting system to keep track of offenders.



*Gov. Gary Locke signed House Bill 1040 into law. The measure, prime-sponsored by Rep. Ida Ballasiotes, provides victims' compensation to people injured by hit-and-run drivers.*

## Preparing students to enter the workforce

As vice-chair of the House Higher Education Committee, I worked hard to sustain the state's commitment to higher education. I am pleased to report that higher education fared well in a very difficult budget year. We provided universities and colleges with tuition flexibility without balancing the budget on the backs of Washington students. The new capital budget provides \$263 million community and technical colleges, including \$10.5 million for Renton Technical College's new Technical Resource Center and \$5.5 million for Bellevue Community College's "A" Building renovation.

The crime of identity theft is an increasing problem in our society. Identity theft threatens an individual's credit history and good name. We adopted legislation this year that limits institutions of higher education from using a student's social security number for any identification purposes except for purposes such as employment, financial aid, transcripts or as allowed by state and federal laws.